In order to improve the operating flexibility of the device, the timing means may include means for programming the timing interval; the means can be entirely or partially integrated into the priming device. The timing means may include, for example, code wheels or a microcomputer.

Page 3, lines 22 - page 4, lines 4, delete current paragraph and insert therefore:

Figure 1 depicts a simplified general diagram of the device according to the invention;

Figure 2 shows a diagram of the principal programming means;

Figure 3 depicts another exemplary embodiment of the invention;

Figure 4 shows a diagram of the external programming means according to another exemplary embodiment of the invention;

Figure 5 shows a particular embodiment of the invention; and

Figure 6 shows an exemplary embodiment of a circuit closing means according to this invention.

Page 4, lines 13-16, delete current paragraph and insert therefore:

In this embodiment, the circuit closing means 20 may include, for example, a mechanical bolt 21, having two positions A and C, which is connected to a U-shaped key 22 placed in a constriction on the exterior of the housing 23, rotation of which allows the bolt 21 to be placed in the desired position. Figure 6 shows an exemplary embodiment of a circuit closing means, such as, for example, a U-shaped key 22 and mechanical bolt 21.

Page 7, lines 3-7, delete current paragraph and insert therefore:

The external programming device 100 may also include an assembly including an electrical power supply 110, a microcontroller 140, a display 145, two programming switches 146, 147, and a run/stop switch 112, and the transfer means including phototransistors 148, 149 associated with phototransistors 48, 49 arranged in the housing 23.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 14 and 16 as follows:

14. (Five Times Amended) A priming device for a detonator, comprising:

timing means for timing the action of a firing element of a primer;

an electrical power supply that provides a first power intensity to the timing means; and

power generating means, the power generating means for generating, through a resistive circuit, a second power intensity sufficient to actuate the firing element upon expiration of a first timing interval and a second timing interval as determined by the timing means, the first power intensity from the power supply not being sufficient to actuate the firing element, wherein the power generating means does not generate the second power intensity until at least the first timing interval and the second timing interval have elapsed.

16. (Four Times Amended) A priming device for a detonator, comprising:

an electrical power supply means for providing a current intensity sufficient for operation of at least a timing means, the timing means timing the action of a firing element of a primer; and

power generating means for generating, through a resistive circuit, a current intensity sufficient to actuate the firing element upon expiration of a timing interval, the power generating means comprising a capacitor, switching means, and controlling means for controlling the switching means by allowing the capacitor to be charged for a charging time and then discharged, the discharge causing the firing element to act on the primer, wherein:

the current intensity sufficient to operate the timing means is lower than the current intensity sufficient to actuate the firing element, and

the timing means comprises a first timing interval for timing a user-programmable interval and a second timing interval for timing a first pre-programmed interval for the switching means and a third timing interval for timing a second pre-programmed interval.